

# The Library Assistant:

*The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### FEBRUARY MEETING.

The February Meeting of the Association will be held at the **Stoke Newington Public Library**, Church Street, N., on **Wednesday, February 12th**, by kind invitation of the Public Libraries Committee.

The following are the arrangements:—

6.30 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Library Hall through the kindness of Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, J.P., D.L., Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee.

7.30 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING.

**Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, J.P., D.L.**, Chairman, Stoke Newington Public Libraries Committee, will preside.

Address on "Some Principles of Classification," by **W. C. Berwick Sayers**, Sub-librarian, Croydon; Classification Honours, L.A.

At this Meeting a vacancy on the Provincial Representation of the Committee will be filled. Nominations to be sent to the Hon. Secretary.

#### ROUTES TO STOKE NEWINGTON:—

From City—Train from Broad Street to Dalston and electric tram to end of Church Street.

From Strand and Holborn—Favourite 'bus (Victoria to Stoke Newington) and Atlas motor 'bus (Fulham to Stoke Newington), via "Angel," to Library door.

Hammersmith and Finsbury Park Tube to King's Cross, tram to "Angel," and 'bus as above.

Stoke Newington Station (G.E.R.) is 15 minutes' walk from the Library, or 5 minutes by motor 'bus.

### YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

A meeting will be held at Bradford, by kind permission of the Libraries Committee and the Chief Librarian (Butler Wood, Esq.), on **Thursday, February 13th, 1908**. Full particulars will be sent to each member.

### THE ART OF STORY TELLING TO CHILDREN.

It may interest our members to know that Miss Marie L. Shedlock, of London and Chicago, a well-known American expert in her subject, and demonstrator to many library schools in America, is delivering a course of four lectures on "The Art of Telling Stories to Children" at Croydon on four consecutive Thursday evenings, commencing February 13th. The ticket for the course is 2s. 6d., and the Hon. Secretary will be glad to supply tickets and any other particulars. The lectures should have a special value to assistants in view of the prominent place work for children occupies in the modern library. Croydon can be reached by frequent fast trains in 18 minutes, the return fare from London is 1s. 6d., and therefore the total cost of the lectures, including fares, would amount to 8s. 6d.

## THE LIBRARIAN'S EQUIPMENT.

An address by HENRY GUPPY, Esq., M.A., to the Library Assistants' Association on January 8th, 1908.

One of the foremost attractions of a librarian's calling is that it is more full of intellectual variety, of wide open avenues of knowledge, than any other vocation or profession. The librarian's training is never complete. He is constantly adding to his store of information. The further he goes and the longer he lives the more urgent does the necessity become to make himself acquainted with the stores of literature under his charge.

It is quite unnecessary to remind such a gathering as this that there are librarians and librarians—at least two classes: the professional and perfunctory. My object in referring to this fact is to emphasize the sentiment which everyone present will re-echo: that we aspire to be something more than mere perfunctory and mechanical officials. Our ambition should be to find genuine joy in helping others, in helping those who come to us for help and guidance, to become guides and path-finders, to give every seeker the information he wants, or unerringly direct him to it. Then we shall understand what Mr. Henry Bradshaw meant when he said: "The most delightful thing in life is to have people coming to you for help and information." And at the same time we shall give to the library its true place as an educating and elevating agency, by opening out its sphere of usefulness as a centre of light and learning.

There was a time when the librarian was merely a keeper or guardian, a sort of watch-dog; a time when the man of business with a faculty for organisation and mechanical devices met the need. Now such has been the progress of education that his duty is not alone how to safeguard, but how to diffuse in the wisest and most effectual way the contents of the library—to bring the books and the readers together. The librarian is the living, vitalizing link in the chain, and the only indispensable part of the machinery. How can we do this unless we are studious, thinking and reading men and women? I remember well the address which Bishop Creighton delivered at the inauguration of the Library Association Classes in 1898. He impressed upon us the necessity for making ourselves acquainted with history. We must live in the past as well as the present, said the Bishop, we must endeavour to familiarise ourselves with the various periods of history from the earliest

times to the present, and not only with the history of our own country but with the history of the world. Nor must we end there. We should acquire a good working knowledge of all departments of literature and science; not only such a smattering as may be acquired at school or at college, but an acquaintance with the progress and development of knowledge in all departments, keeping abreast of the times so that we may be able to give not only the titles of the newest and best books, but to discuss intelligently the new theories advanced, and estimate rightly the importance of additions to knowledge.

But, you say, that is not called for in the strict definition of a librarian's functions. Yet, it is made necessary, and increasingly so, for the complete fulfilment of the relations in which we find ourselves placed to scholars and students whom we are called upon to assist, and in many cases to direct in their reading. I grant you that it is a very high standard to set up. Let us call it an ideal. And what is an ideal? An ideal is something out of reach; something to aim at, not as yet to attain. I fear that many of us, I was going to say most of us, are content to be mere opportunists. Content to do the best we can with what we have; content to drag the standard down to our own level, within easy reach, instead of setting it higher and higher as we succeed in raising ourselves towards it.

Everything depends upon our reading. To us as librarians reading is a first duty, because the sphere of our usefulness depends upon the extent of our knowledge, and our knowledge is regulated by the depth and quality of our reading. This is an interesting topic and there is much I should like to say with regard to quality in reading, but I must resist the temptation, and content myself with very brief remarks upon two or three points which I consider to be of some importance.

The first point has reference to the practice of reading aloud which is falling into disuse. The value of the practice cannot be too frequently emphasised. It is possible to read books automatically. In other words it is possible to read a book with only half your mind in the book, while the other half is roaming elsewhere. The practice of reading aloud will correct that failing, for the sound of the voice lays hold of the attention, and instead of wandering and becoming occupied with other things it is kept alert and fixed upon the subject you are reading. That is a great gain, for if attention is, as we are taught, the mother of memory, then memory will be quickened. The second point is that in our reading we must cultivate the habit of thinking for ourselves. Not such an easy matter as we may at first suppose. Gilfillan's words upon the subject

are worth quoting: "Read thoughtfully, do not lazily mumble the words of your author, do not slavishly assent to his every word, and say Amen! to his every conclusion, but read him with suspicion, with a free exercise of your own mental faculties; with the admiration of intelligence, not with the wonder of ignorance." Then we must read with method. It was fortunate that Bacon did not stop when he said "Reading makes a full man." He went on to say, writing makes an exact man, and conference a ready man. These are qualities most needed at the present day amongst librarians and bibliographers: readiness and exactitude. It is of no use having the information stored away in one of the pigeon holes of your brain unless it is readily get-at-able at the moment when it is wanted. Therefore opportunities for conference and debate, such as you are offered in the meetings of your Association, should be eagerly seized, with a view to cultivate this faculty of readiness. By this means we shall also be able to cultivate the art of speaking in public—a very necessary part of the librarian's equipment.

May I say a word upon another condition of success in work and study—thoroughness. I am speaking to those who have to earn their own living. It has not been the misfortune of any of us to be born in the lap of luxury, and what I want to say is that the primary condition of successful work, whether brain work or manual labour, is thoroughness. The labour may not be to our liking, and in that case we have to gain a two-fold victory over ourselves. It calls for effort, but the effort made and repeated until victory is won will strengthen our character and give us a robustness of purpose we little dreamt of. Look at it from a moral point of view. We enter into a compact with our employer, and honour demands that we should fulfil all its conditions. How very lax some young people are! How reluctant they often are to discharge an obvious duty. How imperfect and slovenly their work often is. Apart from the loss which the employer sustains in this way, the practice is most harmful. They themselves are the losers, for each failure of duty weakens the capacity to distinguish between right and wrong, and blinds the moral sense. And if we are to be thorough we must be orderly and methodical. There is nothing we young people need more fully to understand than the apparently obvious fact that we can only do one thing at a time, if it is to be well done, and that we must do first the work that is most essential.

There is one other little bit of advice I should like to offer. It is this: We must not only be thorough and methodical, but we must be contented. Don't misunderstand me. I do not mean that we are to make no effort to rise; that we are not to

employ our energies and abilities in honest effort to lift ourselves into a higher position. But we must do the work that falls to our lot without any affectation of being above it. I am afraid that it is a very common error at the present day to affect this kind of superiority. I have known young men occupying subordinate positions whom, to look at, you would think had been born not only with silver spoons in their mouths but with kid gloves on their hands. Their air is one of lordly and supercilious indifference to their calling. It is amusing from one point of view, but very sad from another, since it indicates moral deficiency, that their heart is not in their work, that they do not understand the principles of honesty and work. Carlyle preached to us of the dignity of work, of the sacredness of honest labour. It is not so much what kind of work that should concern us, but how we do it. Don't let us rely upon what is called "luck." Depend upon it the only real luck is merit.

There is another element in our equipment of which many of us, I am afraid, fail to recognise the importance. I refer to the cultivation of the faculties with which the wise provision of nature has endowed us.

Books are indispensable helps to knowledge, but they are not by any means the primary or natural sources of knowledge. They are merely the helps or instruments superadded to those with which nature has equipped us. The original sources of knowledge are: life, experience, observation, and thought. If we start with these we shall find that books can fill up many gaps, correct much that is inaccurate, and extend much that is inadequate, but, without living experience to work upon books are like rain and sunshine falling on unbroken soil. The faculty that first calls for careful cultivation is the faculty of observation. In other words the art of using our eyes. It is quite possible to go about a great deal, and yet see nothing. The reason is that the organ of vision, which like other organs requires training, has been neglected, and by lack of training has become dull and slow, and if the neglect is persisted in will ultimately become incapable of exercising its natural function. But this faculty would be overwhelmed on account of the vast variety of objects in the universe did we not possess the power of submitting them to a regulative, comparing and discriminating principle under the control of our minds. This principle may be termed classification, which depends upon points of likeness in things apparently the most different, and also upon points of difference; for points of difference go quite as necessarily along with the points of likeness as shadows go along with light. We must aim at binding things together according

to their bonds of natural affinity, and this can only be done by a broad view of the general effect, with an accurate observation of the special properties.

Having secured a foundation of carefully observed and well assorted or classified facts, the mind proceeds to build a more subtle structure by the process of reasoning. We must not be content to know that certain things exist; we should seek to know the why and wherefore of their existence. By avoiding the easy habit of taking things for granted we shall be cultivating habits of correct reasoning. Until we have acquired in a natural way the general habit of thinking and reasoning it is useless to enter upon more formal studies, which are good to the well trained mind but will never fatten the lean soul, nor enlarge the narrow soul.

There is yet another function of the mind that requires cultivation—imagination. This faculty is despised by some people as having to do with fiction rather than with fact, and as of no value to the severe student who wishes to acquire exact knowledge. That is not the case. Many of our foremost scientists have been led to their most important discoveries by the quickening power of a suggestive imagination. In history and the whole region of concrete facts imagination is as necessary as in poetry. Indeed, the historian cannot invent his facts, but he must mould them and dispose of them with a graceful congruity, and to do this is the work of imagination. There is no need to go to romances for pictures of human character and fortune calculated to please the fancy and to elevate the imagination. The lives of any of those notable characters on the great stage of the world, who incarnate the history which they create, is for this purpose of more value than the best novel that ever was written, or even the best poetry. It is not all minds that delight in poetry, but all minds are impressed and elevated by an imposing and striking fact. But to train the imagination adequately it is not enough that elevating pictures be made to float pleasantly before the fancy. The imagination must be called upon to take a firm grasp of the whole storied procession as it passes in due order before it. Count not yourself to know a fact when you know that it took place, but only when you see it as it did take place. Take the dry bones of history and clothe them with flesh and life and make them live. When you have read a book, a piece of history, a novel, a biography, a poem—perhaps at the close of a day—lay down your book, lean back in your chair, close your eyes, and ask yourself the question: What do I see in the glowing gallery of my imagination? If instead of the word picture painted on the grey pages we find painted on the canvas

of our brains vivid pictures, full of body and colour, we may justly claim that we have made that book our own.

And now I come to the subject of Bibliography, one of the most important elements of a librarian's equipment, if he is to be worthy of the name.

When I speak of bibliography I mean the science of books in its more extended sense, having regard to the materials of which they have at all times been composed, their different degrees of rarity, curiosity, and reputed or real value, the subjects discussed by their respective authors, and the rank which they ought to hold in the classification of a library. Professor Ferguson, in that delightful little book of his, "Some aspects of Bibliography," remarks that to judge by the wry faces he had seen when the subject happens to be mentioned, he inferred that for many it shared with political economy the honour of being a dismal science. Still notwithstanding the wry faces of some, and the ignorance and indifference of others, a large and increasing number of persons are attracted to bibliography, and find the study not merely interesting but fascinating in the highest degree. Bibliography as a science has developed of late years until now it may be said to be of two kinds: general and special. In its general or extended sense it deals with books, whatever their character or material, as the vehicles of knowledge, and discusses all matters which will throw any light upon their history and development. In its special or restricted sense, which is sometimes described as pure bibliography, it deals with the enumeration of books treating of a particular subject, not necessarily involving a minute account of the books as such. As a proof of the interest and value of this special kind of bibliography I need only remind you that a treatise on almost any subject now-a-days is not considered complete if it does not furnish a bibliography of the literature, as evidence both of the author's industry and authority, and as a help to the student.

What was the origin of bibliography? The reason for the existence of a book is that it may convey the thoughts of one mind to another, so that, the aim of a book is to be read, and its value to the reader turns on the worth of its contents to him. If, then, books are solely for reading, what need is there for describing them, and what description can be given better than that afforded by the contents themselves? If they contain their author's thoughts what more is to be said about them? This may be said: it may be necessary to distinguish the one from the other, and to identify them, and that involves description of some sort. To quote Professor Ferguson again: If of every book there were only one edition, if the form and



appearance of it never went out of fashion, if copies never grew old, were never worn out by handling, were never burned or torn, never became imperfect, had never to be replaced, there might be little occasion for description. But since there are not only an incalculable number of books, each differing from the other, but also many editions of individual books, all likewise different, description of the differences in the books cannot very well be avoided. Furthermore, the fact that a book may be imperfect, either through some original defect or from one of the accidents to which books are liable, makes the description of a perfect copy indispensable as a standard of reference. When it comes to successive editions, in which both matter and treatment may have been altered, and still more to different issues which have to be discriminated, comparison and the tabulation of differences become imperative. How many books there are which are falsely, insufficiently, or foolishly named. The bibliographer must see through these deceptions and deficiencies, and write down the book as it is and mark its identity well, or it will be lost.

There are so many circumstances affecting books that the need of a full description is at once introduced. How else can one who desires a book know which is best suited for his purpose, and whether it is perfect when he has got it. Therefore just as biography follows upon the existence of human beings, so bibliography is the result of the existence of books. Away back in the ages when books were still comparatively few in number, formal bibliography was hardly required. Even when the multiplication of books by means of the printing press made descriptive lists necessary the information given at first was very meagre, consisting of little more than bare title and date, and sometimes not even that. But such has been the ever increasing and enormous output of the press that the world simply teems with books, and the need for specialization has arisen. The value of specialization to the trained mind cannot be overestimated, for until you have pursued a special branch of study you can have no idea of the mass of desultory information to be obtained whilst following it. Such are the interrelations and over-lappings of every department of knowledge, whether science or literature or art, that to know one subject well it is necessary to know something of a thousand others. The one subject is a peg upon which to hang others. There is a danger, however, to be guarded against in this specialization—that of losing oneself in one subject. If special knowledge is to be of the highest use, it must be kept in touch with general knowledge. And there is another and perhaps greater danger



to be guarded against—the tendency to over-early specialization in studies of all kinds.

If this is so, it becomes obvious that the need for special training in the case of librarians has arisen. Of course there is no royal road to the rudiments of any department of knowledge, and there may be twenty different ways which ultimately bring us to our destined goal. The twenty plans rightly and necessarily vary, and we may fervently love our own way without offence, so long as we leave to others similar liberty of affection. The danger to be guarded against is that in giving a student a sufficient equipment to start in the race of specialization, he is not misled into the supposition that the race is over, when in truth it is only just begun. Unfortunately in too many cases the examination is made the end, rather than the means to the end.

I do not think too much stress should be laid on facts and dates heaped up in the memory. It spells cram, and cramming does not pay in the long run. Let the student by means of essays and dissertations show his ability in the handling of books, in the weighing of evidence, in working up from the sources accessible to him, and set down the result in writing. There is a fatality about the policy of giving students a series of cut and dried lectures, with all the obvious points worked up, so that all they have got to do is to read up their note book and pour out on paper the treasures heaped up for them by others. The knowledge that any lecturer can hope to communicate directly to his students by means of lectures is insignificant in comparison with what his students will acquire by means of their own reading, if he can only get them interested in the study they are taking up. The ideal lecturer or teacher will show his students what tools they require and how best they can use them. The closer they come together in affectionate and helpful co-operation the more successful will be their work.

The first business before the student seems to be to acquire as sound a view as possible of the general sweep of history. It may be objected to this suggestion that universal history means smattering, and that it is wrong to make this the starting point. Of course, common sense must guide us in our treatment of general history. We must not expect knowledge of details; we must be content with covering long periods in the barest outlines. It is practically impossible for any of us to take up any special aspect or department of history, or of any other branch of knowledge, until we have some grasp of the general drift of the whole; until we know how history is made. We want to see history in the making.

In order to trace the beginnings of literature we have to turn back the pages of history to the time when primitive man was scratching upon the walls of his cave dwelling pictorial representations of the animals he hunted, of himself, and of his fellows. These were the seed germs from which our modern book has sprung. Then again, to understand much of the terminology of books in common use to-day we must needs carry our minds back across the centuries to the time when the human race recorded its thoughts and history on tablets of stone, brass, wood, bark, or on rolls of skin, papyrus, on palm leaves and other materials. To my way of thinking everything which bears upon the history of the transmission of knowledge from one century to another, or from one age to another, should be included in the sphere and scope of bibliography. That means we shall need, as I said just now, as sound a view as possible of the general sweep of history. And until we have reached that point in our general reading and study we are not competent to take up special bibliographical work. As soon as we are ready to take up special work, we shall find no dearth of subjects that are waiting to be tackled. We are surrounded by them.

But I must not weary you by prolonging this dreadfully discursive and, I fear, scarcely coherent address. If I have succeeded in quickening or awakening the interest of any one here present in the subject of true librarianship and bibliography, the object with which I set out will have been accomplished. Let me say, in conclusion, that there is a lot of latent power in a gathering like this. There are powers in some of us that we have never conceived. If we can only draw them out and harness them up what a power for good they may become.

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#### JANUARY MEETING.

The Library Assistants' Association inaugurated the second half of the Session by a meeting at the Guildhall Library on Wednesday evening, January 8th, when Mr. Henry Guppy, M.A., Librarian of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, delivered an address on "The Librarian's Equipment." Mr. Edward M. Borrajo (City Librarian), occupied the Chair in the absence, through indisposition, of the Chairman of the Library Committee, who had been announced to preside, and there was a large attendance, including many chief librarians.

Prior to the business meeting, which took place in the Reading Room, those present were generously entertained to tea by Mr. Borrajo, a kindness which was much appreciated.

Mr. Guppy was most enthusiastically received on rising to speak, the cordiality of the reception evidently touching him. He expressed the pleasure it gave him to see his friend Mr. Borrajo in the Chair and to meet so many of his friends and old students again. He then delivered the helpful and inspiring address which is printed in this number.

An interesting discussion followed, but lack of space forbids a full report. Mr. Jast thought the advice given as to reading aloud was sound. There were hidden potencies in words which no science was competent to explain. Mr. Inkster said Mr. Guppy had made them feel that they could not form too high an impression of their calling. Personally he regretted that it was impossible for him to come in contact with the great majority of the readers at his library. Mr. Sayers wished Mr. Guppy had dealt with the study of bibliography for those who were not near the great libraries containing bibliographical rarities. What methods were they to adopt if they could not get to the actual books? Mr. Hogg thought the assistant who had the best opportunity to obtain his general knowledge was the one who had charge of the reference library. Mr. Bolton and others also contributed to the discussion.

Mr. Brown, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Guppy, spoke in appreciative terms of Mr. Guppy's work for library assistants, not only in Manchester but previously in London. Mr. Thorne seconded the vote, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Guppy said it was a real pleasure to come back to London again. With regard to a point raised by Mr. Sayers as to the study of bibliography, it was a disgrace that a body of assistants had to complain of the difficulty of getting access to the books necessary for the proper study of bibliography. What was the British Museum doing, and why were its treasures not available to all students? At the classes in Manchester demonstrations were always given, and trustworthy students were even allowed to handle the block books. To get into touch with the readers at his library, he made up his mind, when he went to Manchester, that the most accessible room in the building should be the librarian's. In concluding his remarks Mr. Guppy said that if at any time any assistants happened to be in Manchester and would call upon him, he would arrange for them to see some of the bibliographical treasures at the Rylands Library.

Mr. Sayers proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Borrajo for acting as Chairman and providing refreshments, and to the Library Committee of the City of London for allowing the Association to meet at the Guildhall Library. Mr. Coutts seconded, and this vote was also carried by acclamation. Mr. Borrajo briefly replied.

### THE REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS.

A joint meeting of the Library Association and the Library Assistants' Association to consider the question of Registration was held at the London School of Economics on Wednesday evening, January 22nd. Mr. Henry R. Tedder was voted to the Chair and there was an attendance of about 90, the L.A.A. being well represented.

Mr. L. Stanley Jast read a paper, written by himself and Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, entitled "The Registration of Librarians: a Criticism and a Suggestion." As yet, they said, registration had not received the serious consideration of the Library Association. It should do so now, because the L.A.A. had appointed a Committee to consider it, and some of the members of the L.A. itself were considering the formation of a new Association to exercise registration functions. The formation of such a body would mean ever-increasing injury to the L.A., seeing that a registering body—if its registration is to be of any value—must charge high fees, and librarians cannot afford to pay many subscriptions. Only a universally recognized body could register with effect; such was the L.A. The central thesis of the paper was that registration was desirable, and timely, and that the L.A. was the only body that could legitimately hold such a register by virtue of its prestige, its character, its educational work, and its standing as a recognized examining body. The question of whether the L.A. could keep the register was easily answered. Registration in itself signified nothing if it did not signify that the person registered held certain qualifications. If a body kept a list of its diplomates *that* was a register. But the register desired was merely a distinction between the professional and non-professional man. This could be made under the L.A. Charter, which gave the Council power to classify the members. Such powers were held by similar "mixed" bodies such as the Surveyors' Institution. A re-arrangement in the classification of the L.A. membership was all that was needed. As a tentative scheme they suggested this:—

*Honorary Fellows* would consist, as now, of "Persons who have rendered distinguished service in promoting the objects of the Association, or whose election in the opinion of the Council will be advantageous to its interests or objects."

*Fellows* would consist of (1) salaried librarians of approved experience, responsible for the administration of a library system, holding office on a certain date; and (2) diplomates of the Library Association.

*Associates* would consist of (1) salaried librarians, not holding chief positions, thirty years of age and over, and with not less than ten years' approved experience, holding office on a certain date; and (2) librarians holding the four technical certificates, i.e., 3—6 inclusive, and with five years' approved experience.

*Members* would consist of (1) non-librarians (2) librarians not qualified as Fellows or Associates, and (3) institutions.

*Student Members* would consist of any persons under twenty-five years of age, not qualified as Fellows or Associates.

Fellows and Associates would have the right of using the initials F.L.A. and A.L.A. respectively after their names.

The rights and privileges of all classes of members would be equal.

As analogous bodies already had registers, there was no question that the L.A. could keep one. The danger of the non-professional element in the Council—which, by the way, has reached the vanishing point—would be met by classifying the Council itself, so that each class would secure a proper representation. This scheme would ensure registration without disruption of the Association, without narrowing its scope, or alienating a single non-professional member.

#### Discussion.

Mr. INKSTER moved the following resolution:—

This Meeting of the Library Association and the Library Assistants' Association records its conviction that the only proper body to hold a professional register is the Library Association; and, in view of the fact that there is a body of opinion, especially amongst library assistants, on the subject, the Council of the Association is requested to consider and publish a report on the whole question in time for it to be considered at the Annual Meeting in 1908.

He was in favour of further enquiry, and the appointment of a joint committee of the L.A. and L.A.A. for the purpose.

Mr. THORNE seconded. He held that registration was a most urgent necessity; it would consolidate the profession and give it a status which it does not at present possess. He thought that if another professional body were brought into existence it would strongly militate against progress. He was convinced that the proper body to keep the register was the L.A.

Mr. PRIDEAUX was in thorough sympathy with the motion. The L.A. should have taken the initiative in the matter of registration, and should not have been spurred into action by the younger Association. The examination and registration of candidates should be conducted by one and the same body.

At this point Mr. Chambers asked whether legal opinion had been sought as to the power of the L.A. to keep a register, and received from Mr. Jast the reply that such opinion had not been obtained because precedent furnished proof that there was no doubt as to the legality of the proposal.

Mr. CHAMBERS doubted the legality of the formation of a register by the L.A.

Mr. BAKER protested against the tone of the paper; it was too much in harmony with the way the matter was treated at Glasgow. The question of a register might have been dealt with six months ago in a deliberate manner if the Hon. Secretary of the L.A. had only met the proposals then made in a proper spirit. The reason the proposed Institute had not met with a larger amount of support was because of the action of the Hon. Secretary at Glasgow in preventing the proper advertisement of the meeting called to consider it. The movement for an Institute of Librarians was not antagonistic to the L.A.; its promoters had been forced to take steps in this direction because they had been told that it was impossible for the L.A. to hold the Register. He was of the opinion that the writers of the papers should have obtained legal opinion from the Hon. Solicitor of the L.A. He (the speaker) was in sympathy with the resolution.

Mr. HORWOOD thought that they only had to consider the desirability of forming a register, what kind of a register it should be, and who

should hold it. Registers are of two kinds; one is a mere list of certificated persons, while the other affords legal protection against the unprofessional man. A certificate of registration was only valuable by reason of the name of the body issuing it.

Mr. KETTLE was doubtful whether registration was going to be of any good whether carried out by the L.A. or by the proposed Institute. Until there was a body which included all the heads of the profession in this country a register would be useless, and unless registration was made compulsory how were they going to get the heads of the profession included?

Mr. PEDDIE thought that the whole question of the professional organisation of librarians was distinctly ripe for discussion. After protesting against the manner in which the paper was written, he said those who favoured an Institute of Librarians were accused of seeking to promote their own ends. This was not so. The proposal for an Institute was entirely tentative; the promoters desired to place the whole scheme before all the librarians of the country, in order that they might have an opportunity of considering it. He was of opinion (1) that an Institute was necessary, (2) that the L.A. constituted as it is cannot undertake questions of professional etiquette and registration, and (3) that the proposed Institute would not damage the L.A. in any way whatever. His main objection to the proposed re-classification of the members of the L.A. is that it is impossible to have a classified membership and a non-classified Council.

Mr. PHILIP said that they had been told that the working together of the L.A. and an Institute would be an impossibility. This was a matter of opinion. As to the legality of the formation of the Register by the L.A. the Hon. Solicitor to the Association had already expressed the opinion that the L.A. could do nothing for librarians as a profession. Registration was an important thing, but was not the only thing librarians wanted. There were many matters which the L.A. as a non-professional body could not deal with. Moreover, the L.A. only represented a small proportion of the librarians of the country.

Mr. LEWIN was not able to support the resolution. He was of opinion that examination alone should be the basis of registration.

Mr. JAST replied. If the paper had seemed to suggest that the projectors of the proposed Institute were actuated by personal enmity to the L.A. he wished to say that it was not intended. Regarding the action he had taken at Glasgow, he said that the only course open to him was to refuse to announce a meeting of which neither he nor the Council of the L.A. had had official notice. The statement that the Institute would damage the L.A. had not been answered. It had been argued that the Institute would deal with questions with which the L.A. could not deal, but the L.A. was competent to deal with every question.

Mr. SAVERS also replied. As to the legality of registration by the L.A. he said the Surveyors' Institute had the power and why not the L.A. There was precedent, and, as everyone knew, precedent came before mere legal opinion.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried by a large majority. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

#### THE L.A.A. COMMITTEE AND REGISTRATION.

At the meeting of the L.A.A. Committee, held at the Cripplegate Institute on Wednesday, January 15th, the principal business was the consideration of the report of the Registration Sub-Committee which, after slight amendment, was adopted as follows:—

A. That it is desirable that an official Register of Librarians be established.

B. That the Library Association be asked to keep the proposed Register.

C. That, at the inception of the Roll, the following qualifications entitle applicants for registration to be placed thereon:—

(1) Diplomats of the L.A.

Librarians according to the following definition:—

(2) A salaried officer with approved experience, responsible for the administration of a library system.

(3) Salaried assistants over 30 years of age, with not less than ten years' approved experience.

(4) Salaried assistants over 25 years of age with not less than three years' approved experience, who hold at least four certificates of the L.A.

(5) Salaried assistants over 21 and under 25 years of age, with not less than three years' approved experience, and holding six certificates of the L.A.

D. That the Register be kept open for a period of two years, during which time candidates would be enrolled subject to the above conditions; and after which registration be restricted to diplomats of the L.A.

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

### Summer School.

It is proposed to hold a Summer School at the London School of Economics, early in July, principally for the benefit of provincial students. Five lectures will probably be delivered on each section of the Syllabus, with the exception that Sections 5 and 6 will be dealt with together in five lectures, and visits will be arranged to libraries and to the works of interesting firms in London. Full particulars will be published later.

### Professional Examination, 1908.

The following subjects have been set for essays to be submitted at the Examination in May next:—

Section 1. LITERARY HISTORY. An essay on (a) Autobiographies in English, or on (b) The Development of Periodical Criticism, 1800-50.

Section 2. BIBLIOGRAPHY. (a) An account of the Foulis Press, Glasgow, with a select bibliography, or (b) A bibliography of works on the British Museum Library.

Section 3. CLASSIFICATION. An essay on the application of exact classification to shelf arrangement.

Section 4. CATALOGUING. An essay on the cataloguing of anonymous and pseudonymous books.

Section 5. LIBRARY HISTORY AND ORGANISATION. An essay on (a) The history of the Public Library movement in Ireland, or (b) The history of the Bodleian Library.

Section 6. PRACTICAL LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION. An essay on Library Exhibitions.

Mr. Ernest A. Baker, M.A., Chief Librarian, Woolwich, and Hon. Sec. of the Education Committee of the L. A., has had conferred upon him by the University of London the doctorate D.Lit. This distinction will give much pleasure to members of the L.A.A. and to library assistants in general, who hold Mr. Baker in very high esteem.

The Book Production Committee of the L.A. has co-opted several gentlemen interested in the various branches of book production. Among these is Mr. G. A. Stephen (St. Pancras Public Libraries), a member of the Committee of the Library Assistants' Association.



## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH, 1895—1902. 3 vols. Pittsburgh. 1907.

The publication in book form of the first series of the Pittsburgh Library catalogue furnishes a notable example of the cataloguing enterprises undertaken on the other side of the Atlantic, which are worthy of emulation in this country. The entries in this well-compiled catalogue are given fairly fully, and comprise all the books (about 145,000 vols.) in the Library at July 1st, 1902. The Dewey Decimal Classification has been used, but several modifications and expansions have been introduced by the compilers, while in some instances the classification of the Brussels Institut Internationale de Bibliographie has been followed. Extensive changes have been made in the classes 770 (Photography) and 790 (Amusements) and in the division 900 (History). Works of travel relating to a particular country, although assigned numbers in accordance with the regular classification, are entered immediately after the history of that country, and individual biography is arranged alphabetically by subject, 92 being used for the class number. The contents of works are set out and descriptive and explanatory notes given where thought necessary. The annotations are a most important feature of the catalogue; they are well done, many of them being taken from reviews and other sources, but where they are not original the source is always given. Cross-references are inserted to connect subjects or where books treating of different phases of the same subject are widely separated; e.g., books on Bacteria are classified in 589.95 and 616.969, and under each of these headings a cross-reference forms the nexus. The Subject Index furnishes a good key to the classification and the Author Index is valuable as providing not merely an index to the Catalogue but also a brief author catalogue of the books in the Library, because the call number is added to the author and title entries. The large number of English books included in the Catalogue makes it an invaluable reference book for all who are engaged in the work of classifying and cataloguing, or who wish to have expert decisions on the classification of "border-line" books.

G. A. S.

THE LITERARY YEAR BOOK, 1908. (London: G. Routledge and Sons. 5s. net.)

The 1908 edition of this useful work of reference is to hand, and the gradual improvement of the last two or three years is fully maintained. The Libraries Section has again been prepared with the assistance of the Library Association, and the Local Government Board has also been drawn upon for information, with the result that the list of libraries and the various returns are now reasonably complete and accurate. To this section "A Public Librarian" again contributes a resumé of the year's work, and there is a short article entitled "How to become a Librarian." Information about the Library Assistants' Association is included for the first time. The book is becoming increasingly valuable to librarians.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. R. J. HEMPTON, Librarian, Newcastle-under-Lyme, to be Secretary and Librarian of the Crewe Mechanics' Institute.

Mr. A. H. MILLAR, F.S.A. (Scot.), Dundee, to be Chief Librarian, Dundee Public Libraries.

The other candidates interviewed were Mr. A. J. Caddie (Stoke-upon-Trent), and J. A. Charlton Deas (Sunderland).

Mr. J. D. MYATT, Chief Assistant, Wolverhampton, to be Librarian, Newcastle-under-Lyme.